

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1852.

SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CONVENTION.—We are requested to state that the Democratic Convention will be held in the Masonic Hall. The delegates from the different counties are requested to meet at that place to-day at 11 o'clock A. M.

Rail Roads.

Having got home yesterday morning, the unenviable possessor of a very bad cold, which we offer to dispose of on accommodating terms, we find ourselves totally incapable of falling at once into the traces. After having ridden two consecutive nights, we are still conscious of a kind of rumbling in our ears, occasionally diversified by the musical shriek of a locomotive, and pleasantly mixed up with a tremulous motion generally. Out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh, and we have only followed the direction of our ideas in the caption of this rambling paragraph.

The smoothest running on any portion of the line between Wilmington and New York, is accomplished on the Wilmington and Raleigh Road and on the Road from Petersburg to Weldon. The latter road is in better order than it ever was before. *Per contra*—the roughest road—the slowest running, and the filthiest cars, are on the road from Philadelphia to Baltimore. This monopoly does not even take the trouble to have its coaches swept out properly, and on the slightest motion the particles of dust fill the atmosphere. We learn that the present legislature of Maryland has granted the company the right to construct a bridge over the Susquehanna River; at present the boat crosses at night, and some ludicrous incidents or accidents take place. An old lady and three or four daughters serve up coffee and oysters to the passengers on board the boat. On Friday night the boat, in rounding into her place, struck the pier with considerable force, and, in poetical phrase "upset the apple-cart;" this deponent, with several other semi-solvent gentlemen, being sent flying, while in the act of imbibing hot coffee, one unfortunate person, with beard and moustaches, had a dish of stewed oysters spread over his countenance and dicky.

There is one fact for the existence of which various reasons might be assigned, but which is itself apparent. The conductors on the Southern cars are ten times more courteous and gentlemanly, than those North. This is felt instantly the traveler passes Washington City. To this latter City, it would be hard to assign any position. It is nominally slave territory, but the number of slaves is so small, and the few that are, are so generally in private families, that one hardly ever sees a slave at the hotels, or in any public place. Still, the presence of Southern men, and the close neighborhood of Maryland and Virginia, give a smoother tone to free niggerdom, and render the white lacken and waiters more polite and accommodating. The hackmen in Philadelphia are the most unmitigated rascals of their class with whom it has been our fortune to meet anywhere. By the way, talking of Philadelphia hackmen, brings us to the City in general, which is now occupied in changing, quite as much as in growing. Augustus Caesar boasted that he had found Rome brick, and left it marble; time, without any imperial assistance, is rapidly working as great a change in New York and Philadelphia. In 1840 the principal business streets were contented with three or four story brick houses—in 1860 they will be filled with six and seven story ornamented sand stone and plate glass. The great appreciation in the value of ground has something to do with this, as, although a man may own a lot having only twenty feet in front and sixty feet deep, he still owns it up to heaven, if he can build so high. One of the handsomest of these ornamented sand stone fronts is that of the new Girard House Hotel in Chestnut street, Philadelphia—a perfect gem of a house—which has been opened about three months. Perhaps this house is conducted in accordance with the proverb which says that a new broom sweeps clean; at any rate they certainly do things up in the finest style. The only difficulty is that they send single gentlemen a *teetle* too near heaven.

The Quaker city folks feel a good deal irritated at the attempts of New York to get their Mint from them, and the Pennsylvania delegation has certainly exerted an active influence against the Collins line of steamers.

Coal is the great back bone of Philadelphia shipping business, and every Cape Fear man who passes through should visit the depot of the Reading Railroad at Richmond, at the upper end of the city. This mining business has enabled Pennsylvania to keep pace with, and gain upon, New York in the matter of population, as shown by the new apportionment which gives Pennsylvania an additional member, while New York loses one. If one-fourth the advantages can be reaped from the coal business by North Carolina, and the Cape Fear country; then, indeed a new day is about to dawn upon us.—*Daily Journal, 19th inst.*

—The object of an editor is to make a paper which will interest his readers, either by conveying information which they feel anxious to possess, or by such articles as may commend themselves to their attention by their style of writing, or by the principles which they inculcate; he must, therefore, be the judge of what matter he may choose to reject, and what to insert; and must be allowed to establish and act upon one rule in regard to communications, and that is, to insert none unless he believes that the correspondent furnishes matter more generally interesting than that which may be omitted to make room for his favors; and we would wish to impress this view of the subject upon all our friends; because we cannot begin to pledge ourselves to publish every communication sent to us, no matter how unexceptionable such communications may be in their moral tone. It is not every good and moral man who is qualified either to edit a newspaper himself, or to dictate to the editor; and our neglect or refusal to publish any communication, for want of space or other causes, must not be looked upon as expressive of opposition to the views entertained by the correspondent, or as indicating personal disrespect to himself. There is only one portion of our paper which we are willing to surrender to the public, and that is the advertising department, in which all have equal privileges, so long as their advertisements are decent and respectable, and are paid for.

We hope that these remarks, will be distinctly understood by all whom it may concern. They are certainly plain enough, and we understand ourselves perfectly.

—OBITUARY NOTICE.—We publish to day a communication under the above heading, and over the signature of a very respectable citizen of this country. It was handed to us some weeks since away from our office, and accidentally found its way among other papers, which were put into a trunk and forgotten. Our absence during the last two weeks, prevented our looking into the matter sooner; and it is only this morning we have read the communication. As the writer is a friend of ours, and seems anxious in regard to its appearance, we give it as it is, at the same time that we must say it does not suit our tastes. We cannot and will not publish anything—even from our friends.

The Compromise.

The House of Representatives has passed certain resolutions re-affirming the Compromise of the last session. The affirmative resolutions passed by a considerable majority—that majority being made up in a great measure, of Democrats. It is right to state, that some Southern Democrats refused to vote for them,—among the rest, the Democratic members from this State, and for the following reasons: One, because Mr. Jackson's resolution expressed the opinion that it was the *intention* of all sections to carry out the Compromise—the Fugitive Slave Law included—in good faith; and they could not coincide in this opinion, after the exhibitions in Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and other Northern States. It does not seem to be the intention of the North to carry out these measures—especially the Fugitive Slave Law—in good faith. Again; they were opposed to this re-affirmation, which could have no binding effect, and could only serve to reopen the agitation, if it could serve to do anything. At best it was expressive of doubt, undignified, and in their opinion, and we confess, in ours also, unparliamentary. Others thought differently, and we do not wish to censure them, but simply to explain the position of those Southern Democrats who voted against the endorsement resolutions. A man can hardly be his own endorser, neither can Congress.—The country must finally decide, and Congress ought not to interfere with that decision by praising its own acts.

Gen. Canavan not Captured.

Some days since we published a statement taken from an exchange paper to the effect that General Canavan had been captured by Gen. Harney, who is now stationed, we believe, at Fort Ringgold, on the Rio Grande. We see from a letter published in the Washington Union, under date of April 14th, in which the writer states that he has just arrived in Washington City from the Rio Grande, and is surprised to find such a report in circulation. After spending several weeks with his family publicly at Rio Grande City, under the eye of Gen. Harney, without the least molestation, General Canavan started on the steamer Comanche to Brownsville, to enter surety for his appearance to answer the indictment preferred against him for violating our neutrality laws; and, when within a short distance of Brownsville, he was informally arrested, without warrant or legal authority, by a little sub-lieutenant, who, with half a company of United States troops, was a passenger on the same boat. The boat had not been landed ten minutes till bail in more than one hundred thousand dollars was offered for him, of which the United States commissioner took five thousand dollars, and he was instantly discharged. There was neither pursuit nor capture, nor had Gen. Harney anything to do with it more than the Grand Lama. A lieutenant wished to make his name immortal; and I hope he has succeeded as well as the Mexican lieutenant did who recently fired on the same boat as she was peacefully navigating the waters common to both nations, with ladies and other passengers on board.

Letter from Mr. Webster.

Mr. Webster has written a letter to G. A. Tavenner, Esq., in which he expresses his full determination to uphold the Compromise measures of the last Congress. He says:—"Nothing but a deep sense of duty led me to take the part which I did take in bringing about their adoption by Congress, and that same sense of duty remains with unabated force. I am of opinion that those measures, one and all, were necessary and expedient, and ought to be adhered to by all the friends of the constitution and all lovers of their country. That one among them which appears to have given the greatest dissatisfaction—I mean the fugitive slave law—I hold to be a law entirely constitutional, highly proper, and absolutely essential to the peace of the country. Such a law is demanded by the plain-written words of the constitution; and how any man can wish to abrogate or destroy it, and at the same time say that he is a supporter of the constitution, and willing to adhere to those provisions in it which are clear and positive injunctions and restraints, passes my power of comprehension."

Letter from California.

The Steamer Sierra Nevada arrived at New York on the 16th inst., from San Juan, with dates from California to the 17th ult. She brings 286 passengers and \$400,000 in gold. The Steamers Winfield Scott, California, Tennessee, New Orleans, and Constitution, with numerous sailing vessels, were at Panama, all bound for San Francisco.

There were symptoms at San Francisco of serious difficulties regarding Sonora. A French expedition which left for Sonora a short time ago for the professed purpose of making new gold discoveries was really bent on revolutionizing that country and establishing an independent government, with no idea of being annexed to the United States. The Californians are much annoyed at this movement, and talk of getting up an expedition of 1,000 Americans to drive out the French. The inhabitants of Sonora are anxious to be independent.

No further serious damage is apprehended from the flood, as the waters are subsiding.

Four days later from Europe.

The steamer Arctic arrived from New York on the 18th inst., with dates from Liverpool up to the 7th inst. Intelligence had been received of the death of Prince Schwarzenburg, Prime Minister of Austria, at Vienna.

The war steamer Birkenhead had been wrecked on the coast of Africa, and 450 lives lost.

Two and a half millions of gold dust had arrived at Liverpool from Sydney.

France is reported quiet. Napoleon's speech was well received.

Switzerland had replied to France that she had done all a civilized nation could do relative to political fugitives within her borders.

The Asia arrived at Liverpool on the 6th of April. See Commercial head for markets.

Thrown overboard Again.

There was a time when Mr. Clay's voice was all potential with the Whig party; but how are matters changed. The old war-horse has recently written a letter expressing a preference for Mr. Fillmore, and almost on the back of that up pops Mr. Mangum in the Senate of the United States and makes a long speech for Scott, the political protegee of Mr. Seward.

—The associate Editor of this paper returns his thanks to Mr. F. M. Agostini for a very acceptable present of Green Pens, gathered at Mr. A.'s plantation in this neighborhood. They are very fine.

By the way, the associate is in luck, having gone to hear Mrs. Lewis' Shakespearean readings last Monday night, and when the gifts were distributed, discovered that he was entitled to the gold watch, or rather that his little daughter was her ticket having drawn the first prize. Mrs. Lewis is said to have acquitted herself handsomely, and the gift part was perfectly fair, every item put down in the bill having been actually given out. We hope our neighbor on the other side will not feel bad about the Democrats being in luck again.

A counterfeited gold dollar has made its appearance. It is neatly executed, but can be readily detected by its lightness of weight.

Democratic Review.

The Democratic Review for March is a rare table, and is decidedly a fast periodical although rather slow in coming. Its leading article is headed "Congress, the Presidency and the review." It is bitter in the extreme, and has a dashing, splashing, and flashing vein of savagery which makes it piquant as pepper sauce, and with a little really nutritious qualities. It is down upon certain gentlemen on the shady side of fifty, denominated, in the fashionable slang of the day, "old Fogies;" and it, or rather its present proprietors, turn fiercely upon their predecessors who were old Fogies also.

That progress is essential we know, and that as soon as a republic ceases to progress so soon are its liberties in danger; but we must confess, that we had supposed progress to mean some advance,—some improvement upon our predecessors—not the total abandonment of all the advantages to be derived from the lessons which their experience might furnish. It is much easier to tear down than to build up, much easier to denounce than to construct, and we think the Democratic Review will discover. Polk's able Secretary of State, and the distinguished gentleman, who in the same Cabinet presided over the War and Treasury Departments, as well as the gentleman who is essentially identified with the growth of the West, and whose victory over the Quintuple alliance in 1841 stamp him both as a true patriot and an accomplished diplomatist and statesman, can hardly be regarded by the American people as imbecile or "Old Fogies;" and yet these men, to wit: Buchanan, Marcy, Robert J. Walker, Cass, and such like, are those against whose character and standing the "Democratic Review" runs such a muck. It can only find one man with any sort of common sense, and that is Judge Douglas—a very clever, talented, and worthy gentleman—worthy certainly, of a more discreet advocate. But we presume the Review is a good speculation, and as it kicks up a fuss, will get readers and subscribers, if not from accordance of sentiment, at least from curiosity.

It is unfortunate for Judge Douglas' chances at the present time, that the Review has taken the course it has. The result of a war of one against many, can easily be foreseen, and although Mr. Douglas himself is, we sincerely believe, above using such weapons, still, as a public man, he cannot be completely separated from his friends, nor avoid being implicated to some extent in the odium of their course.

The dashing style of the Review has attracted some attention, and excited some feeling, which, however, must subside, as there is no solid foundation for it; and the enterprise will comparatively go down, or the writers be forced to moderate their tone.

Energy and progress are the essential elements of all Democracies, and Democratic Governments must act in accordance with the inherent impulses of the people, else they cease to be, in fact, governments; but it must not be forgotten, that all prevalent tendencies, without some checks or balances are prone to run into excess, and that fixity of principle and reverence for ascertained truth and the facts which are the developments of experience, are even more essential to a republic, than to any other form of government. There is a medium in all things, and prudence would say, that in order to avoid the dangers of fire, it will hardly be safe to jump into the sea and be drowned. To avoid the errors of Federalism, it is by no means necessary to plunge into the wild sea of unconstitutional change and innovation, nor for boys to denounce old and experienced statesmen as Fogies.

Gen. Scott.

The Whigs of Ohio are out for Scott, who will certainly get the support of his party at the North.—Fillmore and Webster, are nowhere in that section. The northern Whigs talk thus: They say that the amount of support any Whig can expect from the South is so small that that section is not worth consulting, and it will not be consulted by them. Their premises are more than half correct.

—The steamship Isabel arrived at Charleston on the 18th from Havana and Key West, having left the former place on the 15th and the latter on the 16th.

There is little of importance. The U. S. ship-of-war Cayenne arrived at Havana on the 13th and sailed for Pensacola on the 14th. Great rejoicings had taken place on account of the birth of a Spanish princess, and the people of the island seemed to be more enthusiastic in their loyalty than at any former period. The Spanish steamship *Ferdinand el Catolico* arrived on the 15th from Spain, with the new Captain General on board.

The markets will be found under the proper head.

Freshet at Harper's Ferry.

Accounts from Harper's Ferry, Va., up to Sunday night, represent the freshet in the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers as the highest on record—the water within a foot of the bridge, and likely to take it off. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the Winchester Railroad, and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, have been much injured.

Louis Napoleon and the Empire.

In Louis Napoleon's Address at the opening of the new French Chambers, the following passage occurs: There is no mistaking the "new title" to which reference is made, nor any reason to doubt that the earliest excuse will be seized upon, for asking it "in the name of the repose of France."

"Being now, as heretofore, resolved to do everything for France, notwithstanding myself, I would not accept any modification of the present state of things unless I were constrained to do so by an evident necessity. From whence can that arise? Only from the conduct of parties. If they resign themselves, nothing shall be changed. But if by their hidden intrigues (*sourdes menées*) they should seek to sap the foundations of my government; if, in their blindness, they should deny the legitimacy of the result of the popular election; if, in short, they, by their attacks, should unconsciously put the future prospects of the country in question, then, but then only, it might be reasonable to ask of the people, in the name of the repose of France, a new title, which might irreversibly fix upon my head the power with which France has invested me."

BANK STOCK.—50 shares of stock of the Commercial Bank of Wilmington, were sold at auction last Tuesday morning; 20 shares of which brought \$110, 10 do. \$111, and 20 do. \$112 per share.

Supercourt Court.

The case of the State vs. Carrville and Ryan, soldiers, indicted for the murder of Sergeant McKevitt, at Smithville, in December last, was commenced yesterday, and the examination of witnesses got through with. The argument of counsel will occupy all of to-day, we presume. At the time of our going to press yesterday afternoon the case was being argued.

New Steamboat.

We notice at our wharves this morning a new stern-wheel steamer, of light draft, called the "Southerner," but built at Fayetteville for the Henrietta Steamboat Company, and intended to run on the Cape Fear River between that town and Wilmington. She is 112 feet long, 17 1/2 feet wide, has 3 feet depth of hold, and is intended to draw 12 inches water. She has berths for thirty passengers, and with her light draft and great power in proportion to size, (40 horse,) she will no doubt be chiefly employed as a passenger boat. She is quite creditable to our Fayetteville friends.

Mr. Mangum and the Vice Presidency.

The course of Senator Mangum of this State has certainly attracted considerable attention, and is the object of much animadversion on the part of his political friends. Perhaps Mr. M.'s position in favor of Gen. Scott would be more easily understood if the ticket were completed in the manner to which surmise points as the expectation of our about-to-be ex-Senator. "Scott and Mangum" would make quite a showy ticket. What think our North Carolina Whig friends of this? Is not their State pride flattered, and will they not sacrifice a good deal to place Mr. Mangum in the chair of the Vice Presidency? For, after all, this is the reading of the riddle—like it who may. As for the State's liking Fillmore, Mr. Mangum's party does not recognize the right of instruction.

It is indeed painful to see the Senator of a Southern State—elected by a party which supports Mr. Fillmore, and has expressed a preference for that gentleman as a candidate for re-election, openly acting with the enemies of his State, and against the candidate of his party in that State; and worse than this, closeted, in terms of familiar intercourse and consultation with Free Soil correspondents of Free Soil papers at the North,—with correspondents of papers which supported Gov. Johnson of Pennsylvania in all his tergiversations and twistings, and which now go for Gen. Scott, as the known protegee of Seward and Johnson. But for all this North Carolina should be proud of her position, and even if her wishes are to be disregarded,—her interests betrayed and her principles violated, still she runs a chance of getting the Vice Presidency in the person of Mr. Mangum, who has generously made all the above mentioned sacrifices in order to secure her that honor. We live in stirring times.

Ever since the afternoon when Marmon, or Walter Scott, as the case may be, addressed a certain fighting gentleman named Stanly, and requested him to go "on, Stanly, on," Stanly has always been as far on as the farthest, in every movement of the kind now on foot; and, therefore, knowing that a cave-in has been commenced at the South, we may take it for granted that Mr. Stanly of this State has been actively employed in hastening the progress of the work. And such has been the case to the letter.—Mr. Stanly has been at work, writing, talking, and caucusing, with his usual tact and ability. The result of these Stanly and Mangum movements depends upon time and the people of North Carolina. We shall see something, if we all live, and our eyes will be opened.

The Position of North Carolina.

The various Conventions of the Democratic party of North Carolina, whether county, district or State at large, will soon assemble, and their action will have considerable influence in deciding the future course of political events around us. In view of this fact we deem it the duty of the public press to offer such opinions or suggestions as may appear best calculated to facilitate the labors of the various bodies, or to promote the common object. And perhaps, a plainness of expression might be permitted in such cases, which under less pressing emergencies, would appear like dictation. At any rate we always prefer to talk plainly and candidly, and shall do so now.

Mr. Buchanan has been declared their first choice for President by a very considerable proportion of the primary meetings in this State; Judge Strange has been nominated for the Vice Presidency in all cases where any preference has been expressed. It is therefore evident that these gentlemen are the first selections of our people, and the question now presents itself as to the amount of authoritative sanction which should be given to this preference; whether it should be embodied in the resolutions of our Conventions, or whether our delegates to the Baltimore Convention should be instructed. For our own part we are inclined to answer both questions in the negative. In the present position of affairs we are strongly impressed with the belief that our delegates should go into the Baltimore Convention untrammelled by any instructions in favor of particular candidates, and at liberty to act in such manner as may appear to their judgment most conducive to the interests of their country, their State, and their party.

If the proper men are sent, as we are confident they will be, the known preference of the people of the State will be faithfully attended to, so long as it presents any chance of success, while at the same time the free position of the delegation will leave them at liberty to cast their weight in such direction as may seem necessary to defeat an obnoxious candidate, should such be presented or such contingency arise. Nor would the probability of securing the nomination of a favorite son of the State be lessened but rather strengthened by this course, whereas if North Carolina were once irrevocably pledged away, she would cease to be an object of solicitude, and such is human nature, of conciliation. Of course, in speaking of the nomination of Judge Strange, we express the feelings of his friends and admirers without any knowledge of, or reference to, his own desires in the matter.

The Democratic National Committee, in publishing the call for the Baltimore Convention, recommended that only one delegate be sent from each Congressional District. Of course, the Committee had only the power to recommend, but had the carrying out of the recommendation rested with us, it would have been carried out to the letter. It would have prevented confusion, promoted order, and given a more deliberative character to that body. But we find that it has been very generally disregarded.—Uniformly a large number of delegates have been appointed from the various districts in Maryland, Virginia, and we presume other neighboring States. We find, that in the 9th district of No. Carolina, a delegate has been appointed from each of the counties composing it; and we presume some such course will be generally adopted. Any number of delegates, from one to ten, have been spoken of as coming from this district. That will be decided by the Convention to-morrow.

Only by some great mistake—some miserable squabble among ourselves—can we be defeated in the coming August elections. Our position upon the subject of State politics, is strong—almost impregnable, and contrasts favorably with the anomalous position into which our Whig opponents have been forced by the stand-still, "equal suffrage" opposing Clique at Raleigh on the one hand, and loud-mouthed demagogical appeals to the *dear people*, at different sections on the other hand. If harmony be preserved—our best men brought out and supported in good faith—the interests of the State and of the party may be secured for long years to come; but a caucus, disforest, forbearing, course, must be adopted—State platforms must be left to State Conventions, and many local prejudices and prepossessions be abandoned for the general good.

To Capitalists.

We refer the attention of capitalists to the advertisement on the 2nd page of Valuable Real Estate, advertised by A. V. W. Hewlett, to be sold on Saturday the 1st day of May, at 11 o'clock, A. M., at auction.

We look upon the above property as being one of the best investments which can be made in this town by capitalists.

MR. BUCHANAN AND THE PRESIDENCY.—The Democratic State Central Committee of Pennsylvania have issued an address to the people of the United States, denying the supposition of the opponents of the Hon. James Buchanan, that he is without popularity at home, and unable to carry his own State, in the event of his nomination for the Presidency.

North Carolina's Position.

It is not possible to see our post during the last month, have overlooked our taking notice of a biographical sketch of the distinguished gentleman whose name heads this article, which appeared in the March number of Livingston's sketch of eminent living lawyers. The article is a gem, and well written and highly interesting. The anecdote which is justly pronounced to be the most graceful to the distinguished subject from the fact (which is at the evidence of their truth and of the sincerity with which they are uttered) that it was written by a gentleman of adverse politics, at a time when Judge Strange's name had been mentioned in connection with the Vice Presidency. We find in this sketch many incidents of a peculiar interest, some of which we will submit for the entertainment of our readers, many of whom are well acquainted with the person whose subject it is.

"On the first day of April, 1814, he commenced reading law in the office of the Hon. Benjamin Watkins Leigh, in the town of Petersburg. In a few months afterward, Mr. Leigh removed to the city of Richmond. But the reciprocal desire of education and esteem were too strong to be severed by slight causes, and the student followed his preceptor to his new home, eager to master the principles of that science he was one day so beautifully to enforce and clearly to expound. He remained in Mr. Leigh's office about six months. During this time, the citizens of Richmond dreaded an attack from the British. Voluntary companies were formed, and citizens were drummed up and sent to a garrisoned town. It was not in the nature of the young law-student to resist the excitement of such scenes. At the first tap of the drum, Blackstone and Coke were deserted. Unknown, and too young to be entitled to a sword, he grasped a musket, and planted himself as a common soldier in the ranks of a volunteer company, where he cheerfully shared every danger of duty and privation, feeling honored at being deemed old enough to be trusted in that position; where, if necessary, he could strike for the stars and stripes, and the capital of his native State. The threatened invasion was withdrawn; the heights of Richmond again assumed the appearance of peace, and the young soldier reluctantly betook himself to his books."

While studying with Mr. May, his military ardor was again excited at an expected invasion of his country.

He again abandoned his studies, and aided in raising in Petersburg a company of juvenile volunteers, from 14 to 17 years of age. He was elected captain of this company, and tendered its services to the State. The Governor, after some delay, accepted him, declined accepting the company; but the proud and military enthusiasm of the youthful captain was too striking to pass unobserved, and the Governor tendered him a Brevet commission of Lieutenant, in an artillery company, then in the service of the State. The commission was cheerfully accepted, and the student once more became the soldier, and performed a three months' tour of duty, encompassed at Petersburg, and Camp Powel's Creek. During his term of service, he devoted his leisure hours to the acquisition of military knowledge, and discharged the duties of his station in a manner that gained the approbation and esteem of his superior officers—while he was a great favorite with, and possessed the entire confidence of, the rank and file; and for the greater part of the time, a concurrence of circumstances placed him in the actual command of the company.

In 1821, the friends of Mr. Strange brought him forward as a candidate to represent Fayetteville in the House of Commons, in the Legislature of the State. The representative in 1820 was John A. Cameron, the son of one of his former teachers. Mr. Cameron had also represented the town in 1810-11-12; but on the breaking out of the war, he sailed for England, and fully served his country as a major of the Cumberland regiment. During the war, exposure had brought on an attack of paralysis, which very sensibly weakened his powers of elocution; and, in a great measure, disqualified him for a successful practice at the bar. But he had won the esteem and confidence of our citizens, many of whom he commanded during the war, and he was a man of active and energetic habits, possessed of a strong intellect and much dignity of character. He was accordingly brought forward by his friends in opposition to Mr. Strange, in 1821. The contest was fierce and violent. The friends of each candidate kept open house for a month before the election, whilst each candidate presided with dignity over the meetings of his own household. The contest was still referred to in Fayetteville as the climax to which electioneering excitement can be carried. At the close of the polls, Strange had a majority of 26 out of 364 votes polled. The compliment was the more flattering, as the federal party had a decided majority in town; and Strange had early avowed himself a Republican, and was, therefore, indebted to personal popularity and the influence of friends for his election.

The contest was again renewed between him and Mr. Cameron, in 1822-23, but with less violence, and Strange continued to be elected by increasing majorities. So courteous was the bearing of the candidates towards each other throughout these memorable campaigns, that at their close they entertained the highest esteem and regard for each other. Mr. Cameron afterwards became Judge of the Territory of Florida, but was drowned in the ill-fated steamer Pulaski, in 1838. In the legislature Mr. Strange sustained his reputation as an orator, and bore a conspicuous part in all the discussions of the day, and had the honor to serve on the judiciary committee of which the late John Stanly was chairman.

In 1826 Mr. Strange again represented Fayetteville in the House of Commons, and was elected to the State. At this session of the legislature an election came on for two Judges of the Superior Court, one to fill the place of Judge Nash, who had resigned, but who is now an ornament to the Supreme Court bench, and the other to fill the place of Judge Mangum, our present distinguished Senator in Congress, who during the recess of the legislature, had been appointed to the vacant seat of Council superiorly the vacancy occasioned by the death of Judge Paxton. The legislature voted for both judges at the same time—91 was necessary to a choice. On the first ballot the vote stood—Strange, 100; Willie P. Mangum, 75; James Martin, 58; Thomas P. Devereux, 32; Joseph Pickett, 45; Robert Burton, 38; Joseph Pickett, 45; Robert Burton, 38; scattering 27. On the second ballot Martin was elected by a vote of 102 to 94 over Mangum.

He presided with much ability in the trial of the notorious Robert Potter in Granville county, in 1832, for the commission of an offence unheard of in the annals of North Carolina criminal law up to that time. Potter was a lawyer, had served in the legislature of the State, and in Congress, during one session. On being found guilty of the offence of injury, Judge Strange sentenced him to two years imprisonment, and fined him in the sum of one thousand dollars. Appeals were made to the judge to remit the imprisonment, but he was inexorable. As an evidence of the excitement that attended Potter's trial, and the opinion of the State upon the sentence of the judge, it is proper to state, that the next session of the legislature made the offence had been convicted of felony, and punishable with death.

While Judge Strange was presiding in Beaufort Superior Court, in 1833, two men, brothers, had the audacity to shoot down a man in the middle of the street, in broad day, almost in presence of the judge. He was conversing with Judge Gaston at the time the facts were announced to him. He immediately issued a warrant for their arrest; but neither brother nor any one else could be found to answer it, so he was armed to the teeth, and swore they would not be taken alive. Judge Strange was resolved that the law should be supreme, even if he fell in upholding it. He summoned the late distinguished lawyer, Gavin Hogg, Esq., and Wright Stanly, Esq., now of rest the other. As they approached on their mission, the men maintained their position in a dogged, sullen manner. Judge Strange caught the eye of the one he advanced upon, and requested him to surrender his bowie knife and submit to the law; an inward struggle for an instant seemed to be going on in the man's breast, but his bravado spirit was subdued in the controversy with a man his inferior in bodily strength, but rendered for the time superior by the force of his intellect. He yielded his implacable wrath, thinking it no disgrace to surrender himself to the higher power of the law. Mr. Hogg and Mr. Stanly were equally successful in arresting their man. The man who was shot did not die. The assailants were tried before Judge Strange, at the same term, and found guilty—one he imprisoned for one, and the other for

two years. During his imprisonment the latter reformed and studied medicine in jail, and became a respectable and useful member of society. A strange modified his judgment to correspond with what he deemed the temper and character of his leader—and rarely was he deceived. On one occasion, a young man was indicted and tried before him for an aggravated assault. But he was young, wrong, of a father; and there was that in his countenance and demeanor that marked a spirit of intemperance, which might render desperate, but could not quell. The Judge felt the responsibility of the position; that he might now, by a single act, fix the future destiny of an ordinary man. He was anxious to maintain the sanctity of the law, and yet, as possible, its victim from ruin. And yet, as he hesitated, he declined to imprison. But imposed a considerable pecuniary fine, gave the youth some good advice, and dismissed him. That man has since been a prominent member of the United States Senate from one of the other States.

The individual alluded to here is Senator Borland of Arkansas.

The sketch is closed in the following complimentary manner: "Since we commenced writing the above memoir, we have seen the name of Robert Strange, of North Carolina, mentioned in several papers as a suitable democratic candidate for the office of Vice-President of the United States. As a Whig, we can only say that we have no objection to that high office, we know of no one more competent, no one who would raise so in that exalted station than Robert Strange, a man emphatically from and of the people, the architect of his own fortune, and the founder of a brilliant and lasting fame."

We believe on the whole that the writer of this biographical notice (who is a citizen of Fayetteville, has succeeded in doing impartial justice to a political opponent. He has, while portraying the life of a distinguished and useful citizen, done much to establish his own reputation as an impartial biographer and interesting writer.

Plank Road Meeting in Lumberton.

Pursuant to previous notice, a respectable portion of the citizens of Robeson county and town of Lumberton, met at the Court House in Lumberton on the 10th inst., to take into consideration the practicality of making a Plank Road from some point on the Cape Fear River to Lumberton. On motion, Col. Alex. McMillan was appointed Chairman, and S. Howell, Secretary.

On motion of Robt. S. French, Esq., it was ordered that a committee be appointed to take into consideration and report the practicality of building said Road; whereupon the following named gentlemen were appointed by the chairman, to wit: Thos. A. Norment, James Blount, and Edward Lewis, Esq. And that there also be a committee to take into consideration and report as to the practicality of improving the navigation of the Cape Fear River from Lumberton to Fair Bluff. Whereupon, Robt. S. French, Benj. Freeman, and Wm. W. Gunn, Esq., were appointed commissioners to investigate said subject, and report at the next meeting on the 4th Monday of May next, at the Court House in Lumberton.

On motion of Wm. W. Gunn, Esq., ordered that these proceedings be published in the Fayetteville and Wilmington papers.

The meeting adjourned to meet again at the Court House in Lumberton on the 4th Monday of May next.

ALEX. McMILLAN, Chm.

S. HOWELL, Sec'y.

Immense Defalcation in the Suffolk Bank—Preparations for Kosuth.

BOSTON, April 17.

The investigation in regard to the recent defalcation in the Suffolk Bank, has been going through with those who were entrusted with it. It now appears from all the facts which the committee have been able to procure, that the defalcation is much greater than was at first supposed, amounting in all to the enormous sum of two hundred and seventy-four thousand dollars. It is officially announced that the Bank is making extensive preparations for making here for the arrival and entertainment of Kosuth

